



Everybody's Backyard!



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Eleven Neighborhood Parks To Receive Capital Improvements

Groundbreaking Ceremony Kicks Off Construction for "Neighborhood Park Improvements Initiative" and Strengthens Partnership Between City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Park Board and Cincinnati Parks Foundation

CINCINNATI, OH — The Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Cincinnati Park Board initiated the Neighborhood Parks Capital Improvement Project at a groundbreaking ceremony at Drake Park in Kennedy Heights on Thursday, April 17. Eleven neighborhood parks will receive significant capital enhancements to be completed by the end of the year. (See attachment.)

"These improvements will make our parks even more appealing to families and others who will be able to walk across the street or down the block to enjoy the peace and beauty that nature offers," said Gus Long, Vice President of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and Chair of the Foundation's Capital Campaign.

The improvements will be made as a result of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation's first ever neighborhood parks fundraising campaign—which raised \$200,000. Additionally, \$300,000 from two Park Board funds will provide matching dollars in support of the initiative (\$150,000 from the Parks Fleischmann Private Endowment fund and \$150,000 from Cincinnati Parks capital improvement funds).

(more)

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"The Parks Foundation is committed to raising funds — not just for new parks — but for parks that have been part of our city's landscape for many, many years," said Bruce Petrie, President of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. Other key Foundation Trustees involved in the Neighborhood Parks Initiative are Lois Conyers, Elizabeth Stone, and Lee Carter.

Neighborhoods enhanced by the park improvements include: East Price Hill, Walnut Hills, Kennedy Heights, Mt. Airy, Avondale, West Price Hill, Evanston, Northside and College Hill. Residents can watch for a "Planting the Future" sign, which will signal the improvements starting in their neighborhood park.

"The strength of a city depends on the strength of its neighborhoods," said Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken, "We are so very fortunate here in Cincinnati to have a Parks department that recognizes the importance of keeping our neighborhoods vital and inviting."

Between the "Neighborhood Park Improvements Initiative" and the funds reallocated as a result of the Fernbank Park "PARKnership," Cincinnati Parks is investing over \$1 million in neighborhood parks this summer alone.

"With just over 5,000 acres of land in the city of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Parks are often many city residents' only access to nature, making Cincinnati Parks truly 'Everybody's Backyard,'" said Frank Russell, Commissioner of the Cincinnati Park Board. "We are eager to keep parks in each neighborhood inviting, clean and safe."

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation expressed gratitude to the lead donor of the neighborhood parks fundraising campaign — the Ohio Valley Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee as well as other generous donors, including the Fleischmann Family.

"Our family has a history of supporting greenspace in Cincinnati," said Noah Fleischmann. "We are pleased and proud to be part of this wonderful chance to improve parks across the city."

For more information, please contact Jamie Brocki at Joyce Wise Communications, Inc., 513.984.9835, ext. 5.

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(ATTACHMENT)



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation has raised \$200,000 for Neighborhood Park improvements, which will be matched by a total of \$200,000 from two Park Board Funds. The Park Board matching funds are from Park's capital improvement funds and from the Fleischmann Private Endowment Fund. A maintenance endowment will also be established for the parks. The endowment will initially be \$100,000. The parks, which will be enhanced as a result of this initiative, include the following:

Targeted Parks		Neighborhood	Initiative/Improvements	Cost
1)	Glenway Park	E. Price Hill	Benches, picnic tables, grills, trash cans	\$8,000
2)	Fechheimer Park	Walnut Hills	Walk & wall repair, benches, signs, plantings	\$12,000
3)	Drake Park	Kennedy Heights	Walks, benches, trash receptacles, plantings	\$65,000
4)	Mt. Echo Park	E. Price Hill	Overlook, benches, game tables, plantings	\$58,000
			Roadway and parking lot paving	\$78,000
5)	Kennedy Heights Park	Kennedy Heights	Walkways	\$25,000
6)	Mt. Airy Forest	Mt. Airy	Rehab Colerain comfort station	\$10,000
			Meyer Lake walkway	\$40,000
7)	Stella Park	Avondale	Site enhancement, shelter, playground	\$50,000
8)	Rapid Run Park	W. Price Hill	New park identification sign	\$6,000
9)	Owl's Nest	Evanston	New park identification sign	\$6,000
10)	Parkers Woods & Buttercup Valley Preserves	Northside	Signs & info kiosk	\$12,000
11)	McEvoy	College Hill	New play equipment	\$30,000
SubTotal				\$400,000
Maintenance Endowment				\$100,000
GRAND TOTAL				\$500,000